

In CHP

Whale Migration Season Is Added To County's Fetes

Thar she blows . . .

Tales of a colorful era of Santa Cruz county marine lore were revived Friday afternoon in the supervisors chambers as delegates of the Davenport Improvement club petitioned the Santa Cruz county advertising committee for assistance in the promotion of the "Annual Whale Migration Season Off Davenport."

Elio Orlando, vice chairman of the coastal civic club, told of the tremendous interest manifested by tourists who are lining the cliffs watching the antics of the gigantic mammals.

Orlando reasons that the whale migration season ranging from January to May off Davenport comes at a time of the year when the county is sorely in need of promotional powder.

He said that tourists are brought into the county at other times of the year by the Capitola Begonia festival, the San Lorenzo Valley Timber Days and the Miss California pageant.

Supporting Orlando was Charlie Bella, erstwhile "mayor" of Davenport (1960-1958) who has watched the California gray whale migrations for over half a century. Bella said that a century ago Davenport rated with Pigeon Point and Moss Landing as one of the principal whaling stations on the Pacific coast.

Whales like to cavort off Davenport, according to marine authorities, because of the presence of large kelp beds and adjacent rocks. Here they can scrape and clean their huge frames.

The gray whale migrates from Arctic waters to southern climes following schools of food fish. Their mating season occurs at this time of year. The unique

spectacle of a score or more of the great creatures spouting water 300 feet in the air is a tourist attraction geared to entice all landlubbers — such was the Davenport story.

County ad officials were impressed. They promised help in launching the upcoast venture.

In other actions at the Friday session the county committee recommended to the board of supervisors:

1—That the county place a full page — all color display on the back cover of Motorland magazine for the May-June issue of the California State Automobile publication.

2—That a new four-color transparency of the covered bridge at Paradise park be purchased.

Preliminary budget discussions indicated the committee's desire to hold closely to its current budget. In a general reshuffling of budgeted items they came up with small increases to the five chambers of commerce in the area.

Sparked by Committeeman John Hesketh of Capitola and Jack Nielsen of Watsonville the group decided that during the past year the chambers had made significant contributions to the economy of the county and should be recognized and rewarded.

Committeeman Conrad Hansen reported from Watsonville that the county's two mammoth redwood slabs from the LA fair are now at the Santa Cruz county fair grounds.

William Knight, Boulder Creek representative of San Lorenzo Valley interests, deplored the lack of state highway signing on the Highway 9 turnoff from Highway 17. He pointed out that tourists with trailers were being "trapped" on the narrow winding mountain road to Felton. Knight said that signing should be placed at the Mt. Hermon road intersection at Camp Evers to advise trucks and trailers to use the Scotts Valley route.

Attending the monthly session were Supervisor Walter G. Merrill, Committeemen Warren Littlefield, Ralph Gray, James A. Harris Jr., Knight, Nielsen, Milo Cain and Hesketh.

US Fires Story loon

ington (AP)—A giant plane was shot 225 miles